

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the description of Figure 1A and 1B on Page 8, Lines 7-9, with the following rewritten sentence:

Figure 1A and Figure 1B shows a phylogenic tree based on shared amino acid sequence identity among tomato β -galactosidase clones [[TGB1-7]] TBG1-7 and other known plant β -galactosidase polypeptides.

Please replace the description of Figure 2 on Page 8, Lines 11-13, with the following rewritten sentence:

Figures 2A-(1-5), 2B-(1-5), 2C-(1-5), 2D-(1-5), 2E-(1-5), 2F-(1-5), 2G-(1-5) show cDNA sequences SEQ ID NOs: 1-7 for the seven β -galactosidase genes of the invention: TBG1, TBG2, TBG3, TBG4, TBG5, TBG6, and TBG7, respectively.

Please replace the description of Figure 3 on Page 8, Lines 15-18, with the following rewritten sentence:

Figures 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, and 3G show the multiple sequence alignment of the deduced amino acid sequences of tomato fruit β -galactosidase for cDNA clones TBG1, TBG2, TBG3, TBG4, TBG5, TBG6, and TBG7 (SEQ ID NOs: 8-16, respectively) and various plant β -galactosidase cDNA clones.